

Middle School Initiative

**PART I
COVER SHEET**

CAP 1 SEMESTER 1 WEEK 5

COURSE: Curry Leadership Laboratory, Achievement 1

LESSON TITLE: Wearing of Civil Air Patrol Uniforms

LENGTH OF LESSON: 50 Minutes

METHOD: Informal Lecture

REFERENCE(S):

1. *Leadership: 2000 And Beyond*, Volume 1, Chapter 1
2. CAP Manual 39-1, *Civil Air Patrol Uniforms*

AUDIO/VISUAL AIDS/HANDOUTS: Overhead projector and transparencies

COGNITIVE OBJECTIVE: The objective of this lesson is for each cadet to understand the proper method of wearing CAP uniforms with authorized accouterments.

COGNITIVE SAMPLES OF BEHAVIOR:

1. Each cadet will describe the wearing of his or her basic uniform.
2. Cadets will state where each accouterment is placed on their basic uniform.
3. Each cadet will demonstrate alignment of the gig line.

AFFECTIVE OBJECTIVE: N/A

AFFECTIVE SAMPLES OF BEHAVIOR: N/A

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**PART II
TEACHING PLAN
Introduction**

ATTENTION: What uniform did the soldiers wear when the settlement of Jamestown, Colony of Virginia, was founded?

TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.1 - English Light Field Armor, 16th Century

As you can see, this might be a type of uniform that could have been worn at that time.

MOTIVATION: As Civil Air Patrol cadets, each of you has committed yourself to a semi-regimented way of life while in this course. Your self-discipline should dictate that you appear in a uniform that is neat, clean, and correct in design and specification.

OVERVIEW: During this hour we will talk about basic Civil Air Patrol (CAP) uniforms that cadets are authorized or required to wear during CAP activities.

TRANSITION: Let's take a look now at those uniforms and accessories that you will or may be wearing during your membership in CAP.

Body

MP 1 Cadets in CAP are required to have one basic uniform.

TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.2 - Female Basic Uniform

For females this consists of a light blue short sleeve blouse, blue skirt, blue belt with silver buckle, blue flight cap, plain (neutral) nylon base, black oxfords shoes or loafers. A black military style handbag may be carried. Appropriate undergarments are required.

TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.3 - Male Basic Uniform

The basic uniform for male cadets consist of light blue short sleeve shirt, blue trousers, blue belt with silver buckle, blue flight cap, plain black sox, and block low quarter shoes with no decoration. When this combination is worn, a "U" neck or "V" neck tee shirt is mandatory.

MP 2 When wearing this basic uniform, cadets are required to have certain CAP insignia and badges affixed to the uniform. Let's take a look at each of these items and where they are placed on the uniform.

TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.4 - Name Plate Placement

The first item to be placed on the shirt or blouse is your CAP nameplate. It is centered over the right pocket with the bottom of the nameplate just touching the top of the pocket (male) on a line with or up to 1 1/2 inch above or below the first exposed button on the female blouse. (Note: This variance on the female's blouse is based on bust size and shape.)

TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.5 - Wing Patch Placement

The second item of concern is the wing patch. This patch is placed on the left sleeve of your shirt/blouse one-half inch below the shoulder seam and centered on the shoulder epaulet.

TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.6 - CAP Cutout/Grade Insignia Placement

Your next insignia is the CAP cutout. As a basic cadet you will wear one of these cutouts on each side of the collar of your shirt/blouse. The placement of this insignia is critical. Let's take a look at this transparency to see the exact placement. Note that the insignia is placed on a line 1-inch from the lead edge of the collar and midway between the top and bottom of the collar. When you receive your first chevron, it will replace the CAP cutout on the right side of your collar in the same position.

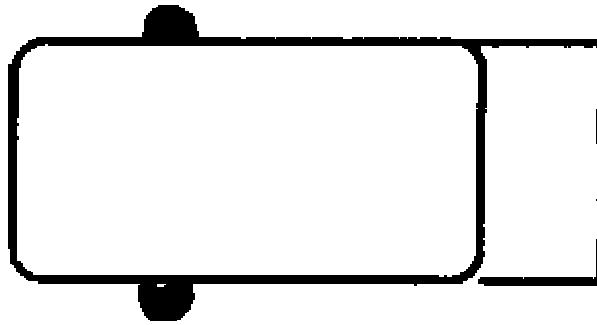
TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.7 - Placement of Ribbons

Next alignment to consider is ribbons. When you complete your first achievement, you will be entitled to wear your first ribbon. This ribbon will be worn on the left side of your shirt/blouse. On the male shirt, centered over the pocket the same as your nameplate. On the female blouse, centered between the buttons and the arm seam on line with the bottom of the nameplate.

There we have it – the shirt/blouse is finished. On to the trousers and skirt. Trousers should be fitted comfortably at the waist – note that I said waist and not the hips, with no bunching and no bagginess in the seat. The trouser legs shall terminate at the front resting on the shoes with a slight break. The rear of the trouser legs should be 7/8 inch longer than the front – this is called the "cadet cuff." No modification will be made to the trouser legs other than the length. The female skirt fits around the waist comfortable with no bunching and hangs over the hips with a slight flair. Skirt length shall not be shorter than the top of the kneecap and not longer than the bottom of the kneecap. The current skirt has belt loops and requires a special-sized belt and buckle. For the ladies, an optional pair of slacks may be worn. The fit is the same as for the men's trousers.

Of course, while wearing trousers/slacks/skirt a belt is worn. The belt on the male trousers starts at the left and ends at the right. For females, it is just the opposite. The belt tip extends past the buckle after it passes through and terminates with metal-to-metal.

(Note: Instructor reference only. This drawing shows the metal-to-metal requirement for the belt buckle/belt tip.)



TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.8 - Gig Line Alignment and Wear of the Flight Cap

While wearing any uniform there is a thing called the gig line. This is an alignment of the shirt/blouse, buckle, and trousers/slacks. When females wear the skirt, the gig line only involves the blouse and the buckle.

The flight cap is worn squarely on the head with the front crease centered over the nose and approximately 1-inch above the eyebrows. The cap is tilted slightly to the right side of the head. When not worn it will be tucked under the belt on either side between the first and second belt loops. The cap will not be folded over the belt.

TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.9 - Flight Cap Insignia

In this illustration, you see the proper placement of the cap device on the flight cap. Note the spacing as being one and one-half (1 ½) inches from the front of the cap and mid-way between the bottom of the cap and the blue piping.

The last major item in the basic uniform is our shoes. Male cadets will wear a low quarter black shoe with no decoration. Females may wear a plain black oxford shoe or loafers. Your footwear will be highly polished and in good condition. Alternately, both male and female cadets may wear any approved black leather combat boot – females must be wearing slacks.

TRANSPARENCY LL1.1.10 - Battle Dress Uniform

MP 3 Field exercises require a field-type uniform. In this case we have a "Battle Dress Uniform" or BDU. On the collar is the same metal insignia as worn on your blue shirt. The insignia changes to cloth sew-on insignia when you become a cadet officer. In place of the plastic nameplate over the right pocket is a sewn "NAME" tape – white on blue. Over the left

pocket is a sewn "Civil Air Patrol" tape – white on blue. On the left sleeve is the wing patch. If the wing commander authorizes a unit patch, it may be worn on the right pocket centered between the right/left side – pocket flap and bottom of pocket. Certain specialty patches may be worn on the BDU and you will be advised where to put them after they are earned. "Tee" shirt is brown or black.

Combat boots are worn with trouser legs bloused. Boots are shined. Shoelaces will be tucked into the top of the boot. BDU headgear is required or a unit specified baseball cap may be worn. Uniformity within the unit is required. A BDU field jacket is authorized for cold weather and all items placed on the shirt must also be on the jacket. The standard USAF raincoat may also be worn. The raincoat may be worn with your basic blue uniform during cool or inclement weather.

To blouse the trouser legs, use blousing bands, blousing straps, or rubber bands. Place the bands between the second and third eyelets of the boots and tuck the bottom of the trouser legs up under the bands. Assure that the legs hang evenly.

MP 4 Your blue shirts and blouses should be washed and ironed weekly. Blue shirts and blouses are ironed without creases except the crease down the center of the sleeve. This crease should be centered to the epaulet of the shirt/blouse. Trousers, skirts, and slacks should be dry cleaned at least once every two months, or as needed. The Battle Dress Uniform should be washed and ironed as needed. No starch will be applied to any uniform item as this deteriorates the material; however, sizing may be used to create crisp appearance. Cadets have traditionally used a tuck on the sides of the blue shirts/blouses to give a neater appearance. To create this tuck, place your hands on each side at the belt line, pull the shirt/blouse material until smooth front and back. Take the excess material and fold over so that the open side is toward the back. Your belt will hold the tuck into place or you may attach one end of a shirt garter at the lower edge of the tuck with the other end fastened to the top of your sock. This holds the shirt taut and neat.

MP 5 One thing I would like to impress upon you is that while wearing your CAP uniform, you wear it correctly at all times. If you do not, it shows that you lack self-discipline. Everything you are being taught is to increase your self-esteem – how well you think of yourself and your peers in this class.

Conclusion

SUMMARY: During this class we have discussed:

1. The basic blue uniforms for male and female cadets.
2. The required accessories to be on the uniform.
3. The primary field uniform – the BDU.

REMOTIVATION: When you wear your uniform you will be under constant scrutiny by your peers, other schoolmates, and me. While in uniform you represent the USAF Auxiliary – CAP and this school. Most of all, you represent yourself as a self-disciplined individual who believes in wearing his or her uniform with pride.

CLOSURE: Finally, if you have any doubts about how to wear your uniform, please consult CAP Manual 39-1.

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**PART III
LESSON REVIEW**

LESSON OBJECTIVE(S):

1. Each cadet knows the proper method of wearing his or her uniform.
2. Each cadet knows the proper location of required accouterments.

LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What is the proper placement of the name tag on the male blue shirt? Female blue blouse?

Answer: On the male shirt, the nameplate is centered over the right breast pocket with bottom of the nameplate just touching the top of the pocket. The nameplate on the female blouse is centered on the right side of the blouse on a line even with or up to 1½ inches above or below the first exposed button.

2. What is the proper location of the wing patch?

Answer: The wing patch is place on the left sleeve one-half inch down from the shoulder seam and centered on the shoulder epaulet.

3. Where is the CAP cutout placed on the shirt/blouse collar?

Answer: The cutout is placed on the collar on a line one inch back from the lead edge of the collar and midway between the top and bottom of the collar.

4. Where are ribbons placed on the blue shirt/blouse?

Answer: On the male shirt, the ribbon(s) is/are centered over the left breast pocket similar to the nameplate. On the female blouse, the ribbon(s) is/are placed on the left side of the blouse on line with the nameplate.

5. What is the gig line?

Answer: The gig line is the alignment of the shirt or blouse with the belt buckle and the fly of the trousers or slacks.

6. When are you required to wear your uniform properly?

Answer: At all times.